

NEWS

Spouses get taste of military life

CPL. JENNIFER BROFER
STAFF WRITER

Looking down the 48.5 - foot rappel tower, it was easy for most of them to let their fear of heights take over.

However, after a little motivation from their spouses, Jane Wayne Day participants were able to overcome their fear and accomplish the task, inspired and ready to take on the next obstacle that came their way.

The rappel tower was just one of the events during Jane Wayne Day Nov. 1 that gave more than 20 military spouses a taste of military life through multiple mental and physical challenges. The event gave them an opportunity to better understand the rigorous demands put forth on their spouses on a day-to-day basis.

Their first challenge was the Unknown Distance Range at Khe Sanh Range, where they each shot 20 rounds with the M-16A2 service rifle. For many of

them, this was their first time handling a weapon.

“I’ve never done anything like that in my life,” said Lisa Wempner, wife of Sgt. Orville Wempner, plumber for Depot Emergency Maintenance. “I had never touched a weapon before. It was refreshing and exhilarating.”

Their next stop was the WFTBn. Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Training facility, where they furthered their marksmanship skills and understanding of what it takes to be a Marine rifleman.

After the ISMT, spouses made their way to the rappel tower – the event that proved to be the most mentally challenging.

“When he said ‘put your feet over the edge,’ that’s when I started to get scared because I thought my feet would slip under the wood,” said Minette VanDermark, wife of Cmdr. Jonathon VanDermark, director of Advanced Education of

General Dentistry at the Naval Dental Center.

However, once they overcame their fear of heights, they soon realized how much fun it was.

“My favorite part was the rappel tower because I was so scared,” said Marisa Davis, wife of Sgt. Stephen Davis, baritone player for the Parris Island Marine Band.

Their last event was the obstacle course at Page Field. For most of them, jumping over logs and climbing up the rope was easier said than done.

“I didn’t know there was so much involved,” said Athena Anderson, wife of Capt. Bradley W. Anderson, Headquarters Co. commander, H&SBn. “When they do it, it looks so easy, but it’s a lot harder than it looks – especially getting up the rope.”

After it was all over, each participant, sweaty and exhausted, received a certificate for suc-

cessfully completing every obstacle.

The event gave them a deeper appreciation for the Marine Corps way of life and a better understanding of what Marines do here at the Depot, said Capt. Timothy Hough, operations officer for H&SBn. Operations.

“Jane Wayne Day is held so wives can have an appreciation for what their husbands do and get them involved in the Marine Corps family,” said Hough. “They can see what their husbands have to go through, so they have an understanding of why it’s so hard to be in the Marine Corps.”

Hough hopes to have even more spouse participation for next year’s Jane Wayne Day.

“We had a great turnout,” said Hough. “We really appreciate the support of Weapons Battalion, and we look forward to seeing the spouses again next year.”



Cpl. Jennifer Brofer
Minette VanDermark, wife of Cmdr. Jonathon VanDermark, Naval Dental Center, prepares to rappel off of the 48.5 - foot rappel tower at Page Field Nov. 1.

Elizabeth Iyrberg, the Department Head of Guidance for Worchester Vocational High School in Massachusetts, fires on the Depot’s Unknown Distance Range Oct. 30. Iyrberg was part of the first Educator Workshop of the season. The workshops are designed to afford educators from throughout the Eastern Recruiting Region the opportunity to discover what ‘really’ happens at recruit training. This year, Parris Island will host 12 Educator Workshops.



Cpl. Thomas Perry

EDUCATE,
Continued from Page 1

people understand the Marine Corps, but more importantly, it helps America’s young men and women get the opportunity to realize the Corps offers a bright future.

“I work at a vocational high school, so the military is a viable option for many of my students,” said Elizabeth Iyrberg, the Department Head of Guidance for Worchester Vocational High School in Massachusetts. “I have been really impressed so far. I would definitely recommend the Marines to my students.”

That is the goal of these workshops. That is why the Eastern Recruiting Region spends time, effort and money bringing educators from up and down the East Coast here every year. The program is one of the many tributaries that fuel the future of the Corps.

“They see the transformation process,” said Agee, whose visit marked his second workshop. “We take civilians, turn them into Marines, and return them as better overall citizens.”

That is the goal of the Marine Corps. Allowing educators to see that gives them confidence in their decision to recommend a future in the Marine Corps to their students.

Parris Island Commissary Holiday Hours

Nov. 9
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Nov. 10
Closed

Nov. 11 - Nov. 14
9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Nov. 15
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Nov. 23
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Nov. 24
9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Nov. 25
Closed

Nov. 26
9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Nov. 28
9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Nov. 29
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.